



DIGEST OF SB 291 (Updated March 3, 2003 4:02 PM - DI 102)

Citations Affected: IC 14-33; noncode.

Synopsis: Conservancy districts. Makes the following changes in a conservancy district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3: (1) Requires mailed notice of an annual meeting to all freeholders of the district. (2) Specifies the procedure for voting by absentee ballot in district board elections. (3) Requires mailed notice to all freeholders in the district of a hearing concerning a proposed ordinance to establish, change, or readjust the district's rates and charges for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and liquid waste. (4) Requires the notice to include a statement informing the freeholders of their right to file a petition objecting to an ordinance increasing rates at a yearly rate that is greater than 5%. (5) Establishes the minimum number or proportion of freeholders in the district signing a petition objecting to an ordinance increasing the rates. (6) Eliminates the presumption that rates and charges adopted by the district are just and equitable.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Lawson C

January 15, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Elections and Civic Affairs. February 17, 2003, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass. March 3, 2003, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.



First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in this style type, and deletions will appear in this style type.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or *this style type* reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 291

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 14-33-5-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 2. (a) At each annua
meeting of the district, except a district to which section 4.5 of this
chapter applies, directors shall be elected to fill vacancies on the
board due to expiration of terms, resignation, or otherwise. The election
shall be conducted by written ballots. To be elected an individual mus
receive a majority of the votes of the freeholders of the district who are

- (1) present and voting in person; or
- (2) absent but have mailed or delivered a written ballot vote.
- (b) A written ballot vote must be signed and mailed or delivered to the district office. A ballot is valid if delivered or received **on or** before the scheduled date of the annual meeting.
- SECTION 2. IC 14-33-5-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 4. (a) The annual meeting of the district must be held at the time designated by the court:
 - (1) at the district's office; or
 - (2) at a place in or near the district as determined by resolution of

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SB 291—LS 6897/DI 101+









1	the board adopted before December 1 of the year.
2	(b) Except for a district to which section 4.5 of this chapter
3	applies, notice of the annual meeting of the district must shall be given
4	by one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each
5	county in the district at least fourteen (14) and not more than thirty-one
6	(31) days before the annual meeting.
7	(c) The notice required by subsection (b) must contain the
8	following:
9	(1) The names of the nominees.
10	(2) The place where the election will be held.
11	(3) The time of the election.
12	(4) The fact that this is the annual meeting of the district.
13	(5) The purposes of the meeting.
14	(6) The time during which ballots may be cast.
15	SECTION 3. IC 14-33-5-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
16	AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
17	1, 2003]: Sec. 4.5. (a) This section applies to a district that, before
18	July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.
19	(b) At each annual meeting of the district, directors shall be
20	elected to fill vacancies on the board due to expiration of terms,
21	resignation, or otherwise. The election shall be conducted by
22	written ballots. To be elected, an individual must receive a
23	majority of the votes of the freeholders of the district who are:
24	(1) present and voting in person; or
25	(2) absent but have mailed or delivered a written absentee
26	ballot included in the notice mailed under subsection (e)(2).
27	(c) A written absentee ballot must be signed by the freeholder
28	casting the ballot and returned:
29	(1) in person to the location specified in the notice mailed
30	under subsection (e)(2) on or before the ending time for voting
31	in person on the date of the annual meeting; or
	(2) by mail to an address specified in the notice mailed under
32	subsection (e)(2).
32 33	(d) An absentee ballot is valid if delivered or received on or
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32 33 34 35	before the scheduled date of the annual meeting.
32 33 34 35 36	(e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as
32 33 34 35 36 37	(e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows:
32 33 34 35 36 37 38	(e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows:(1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	 (e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows: (1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the district at least fourteen (14)
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	 (e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows: (1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the district at least fourteen (14) and not more than thirty-one (31) days before the date fixed
32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	 (e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows: (1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the district at least fourteen (14)



1	section 5 of this chapter not later than fourteen (14) days
2	before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting. The
3	notice required under this subdivision may be included in a
4	district's periodic billing if the billing is postmarked not later
5	than fourteen (14) days before the date fixed in the notice for
6	the annual meeting.
7	(f) The notice required by subsection (e) must contain the
8	following:
9	(1) The names of the nominees.
10	(2) The place where the election will be held.
11	(3) The date and time of the election.
12	(4) The fact that this is the annual meeting of the district.
13	(5) The purposes of the meeting.
14	(6) The time during which in person ballots may be cast.
15	(g) A mailed notice under subsection (e)(2) must include an
16	absentee ballot and instructions for completing and returning the
17	ballot by mail or in person as required by subsection (c).
18	SECTION 4. IC 14-33-5-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
19	FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 6. (a) At each annual
20	meeting and before the election of directors, the chairman shall appoint
21	three (3) freeholders of the district who are present at the annual
22	meeting to act as clerks of and conduct the election.
23	(b) Before the casting of a an in person vote, each freeholder must
24	sign the list of freeholders opposite the freeholder's name in the
25	presence of the secretary of the district. If the clerks find that a
26	freeholder's name is erroneously omitted from the list, the clerks shall
27	place the name on the list. The omitted freeholder is then entitled to
28	cast a ballot.
29	(c) The clerks shall note the fact of receipt of a valid written ballot
30	vote, whether cast in person or absentee, opposite the freeholder's
31	name who cast that vote. At this time the written ballot vote is
32	considered cast.
33	(d) At the close of the election poll, the clerks shall count the cast
34	ballots and make a report of the results. The secretary of the district
35	shall record the results in the records of the district. The chairman shall
36	then declare the successful nominees elected, and the elected directors

SECTION 5. IC 14-33-5-21 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 21. (a) If the board issues revenue bonds for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and liquid waste, the board may do the following:

are entitled to and shall assume all the duties of the office for which



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41 42 elected.

1	(1) Subject to sections 21.5, 21.6, and 21.7 of this chapter,
2	establish just and equitable rates and charges and use the same
3	basis for the rates as provided in IC 36-9-23-25 through
4	IC 36-9-23-29.
5	(2) Collect and enforce the rates, beginning with the
6	commencement of construction as provided in IC 36-9-23.
7	(3) Establish rules and regulations.
8	(4) Require connection to the board's sewer system of any
9	property producing sewage or similar waste and require
10	discontinuance of use of privies, cesspools, septic tanks, and
11	similar structures. The board may enforce this requirement by
12	civil action in circuit or superior court as provided in
13	IC 36-9-23-30.
14	(5) Provide for and collect a connection charge to the board's
15	sewer system as provided in IC 36-9-23-25 through
16	IC 36-9-23-29.
17	(6) Contract for treatment of the board's sewage and pay a fair and
18	reasonable connection fee or rate for treatment, or a combination
19	of both, as provided in IC 36-9-23-16.
20	(7) Secure the bonds by a trust indenture as provided in
21	IC 36-9-23-22.
22	(8) Create a sinking fund for the payment of principal and interest
23	and accumulate reasonable reserves as provided in IC 36-9-23-21.
24	(9) Issue temporary revenue bonds to be exchanged for definite
25	revenue bonds as provided in IC 36-9-23-17 through
26	IC 36-9-23-20.
27	(10) Issue additional revenue bonds as part of the same issue if
28	the issue does not meet the full cost of the project for which the
29	bonds were issued as provided in IC 36-9-23-17 through
30	IC 36-9-23-20.
31	(11) Issue additional revenue bonds for improvements,
32	enlargements, and extensions as provided in IC 36-9-23-18.
33	(12) Covenant with the holders of the revenue bonds for the
34	following:
35	(A) Protection of the holders concerning the use of money
36	derived from the sale of bonds.
37	(B) The collection of necessary rates and charges and
38	segregation of the rates and charges for payment of principal
39	and interest.
40	(C) Remedy if a default occurs.
41	The covenants may extend to both repayment from revenues and
42	other money available to the district by other statute as provided



1	in IC 36-9-23.
2	(b) In the same manner as provided by IC 36-9-23, the rates or
3	charges made, assessed, or established by the district are a lien on a lot,
4	parcel of land, or building that is connected with or uses the works by
5	or through any part of the sewage system of the district. The liens:
6	(1) attach;
7	(2) are recorded;
8	(3) are subject to the same penalties, interest, and reasonable
9	attorney's fees on recovery; and
10	(4) shall be collected and enforced;
11	in substantially the same manner as provided in IC 36-9-23-31 through
12	IC 36-9-23-32.
13	SECTION 6. IC 14-33-5-21.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
14	CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
15	[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 21.5. (a) This section applies to a
16	district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure
17	described in IC 14-33-4-3.
18	(b) Notwithstanding any other law that applies to the
19	establishment of rates and charges by a district, after the
20	introduction of an ordinance establishing rates and charges but
21	before the ordinance is finally adopted, in addition to any other
22	notice required under this chapter, the notice of the hearing setting
23	forth the proposed schedule of rates and charges must be given by
24	mail to all freeholders in the district if the ordinance establishing
25	the rates and charges is introduced after June 30, 2003. A notice
26	mailed under this subsection must be postmarked not later than
27	ten (10) days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing. The
28	notice required under this subsection may be included in the
29	district's periodic billing if the billing is postmarked not later than
30	ten (10) days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing.
31	(c) In the case of an increase or a readjustment in the rates or
32	charges that is greater than five percent (5%) per year, as
33	calculated from the rates and charges in effect from the date of the
34	district's last rate increase before January 1, 2003, the notice
35	required by subsection (b) must contain a statement informing the
36	freeholders in the district of the freeholders' right, under section
37	21.7 of this chapter and IC 36-9-23-26.1, to file a petition objecting
38	to any ordinance finally adopted by the board that increases the
39	rates and charges.
40	SECTION 7. IC 14-33-5-21.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA

CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS

[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 21.6. (a) This section applies to a



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1	district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure	
2	described in IC 14-33-4-3.	
3	(b) The presumption established by IC 36-9-23-25(b) does not	
4	apply to rates and charges established after June 30, 2003, by a	
5	district under section 21 of this chapter.	
6	SECTION 8. IC 14-33-5-21.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA	
7	CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS	
8	[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 21.7. (a) This section applies to a	
9	district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure	
10	described in IC 14-33-4-3.	
11	(b) Notwithstanding any other law that applies to the	
12	establishment of rates and charges by a district, a written petition	
13	objecting to an ordinance finally adopted after June 30, 2003, that	
14	increases or readjusts the rates and charges of the district may	
15	contain the minimum number or proportion of freeholders in the	
16	district described in IC 14-33-2-2 as an alternative to the petition	
17	requirements described in IC 36-9-23-26.1(a)(2). In all other	
18	respects, the procedure provided in IC 36-9-23-26.1 applies to a	
19	written petition filed in accordance with this subsection.	
20	SECTION 9. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] IC 14-33-5-4.5, as	
21	added by this act, applies to annual meetings held after June 30,	
22	2003, by a conservancy district that, before July 1, 2003, used the	
23	notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.	



COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Elections and Civic Affairs, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 291, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Delete the title and insert the following:

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning natural and cultural resources.

Page 1, between the enacting clause and line 1, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 14-33-5-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 2. (a) At each annual meeting of the district, directors shall be elected to fill vacancies on the board due to expiration of terms, resignation, or otherwise. The election shall be conducted by written ballots. To be elected an individual must receive a majority of the votes of the freeholders of the district who are:

- (1) present and voting in person; or
- (2) absent but have mailed or delivered a written absentee ballot vote. included in the notice mailed under section 4(b) of this chapter.
- (b) A written absentee ballot vote must be signed by the freeholder casting the ballot and mailed or delivered returned:
 - (1) in person to the district office. location specified in the notice mailed under section 4(b) of this chapter on or before the ending time for voting in person on the date of the annual meeting; or
 - (2) by mail to an address specified in the notice mailed under section 4(b) of this chapter.
- (c) A An absentee ballot is valid if delivered or received on or before the scheduled date of the annual meeting.

SECTION 2. IC 14-33-5-4 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 4. (a) The annual meeting of the district must be held at the time designated by the court:

- (1) at the district's office; or
- (2) at a place in or near the district as determined by resolution of the board adopted before December 1 of the year.
- (b) Notice of the annual meeting of the district must shall be given as follows:
 - (1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the district at least fourteen (14) and not more than thirty-one (31) days before the date fixed in the notice for

SB 291—LS 6897/DI 101+



C o p the annual meeting.

- (2) By mail to all freeholders on the list prepared under section 5 of this chapter not later than fourteen (14) days before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting. The notice required under this subdivision may be included in a district's periodic billing if the billing is postmarked not later than fourteen (14) days before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting.
- (c) The notice required by subsection (b) must contain the following:
 - (1) The names of the nominees.
 - (2) The place where the election will be held.
 - (3) The time of the election.
 - (4) The fact that this is the annual meeting of the district.
 - (5) The purposes of the meeting.
 - (6) The time during which in person ballots may be cast.
- (d) A mailed notice under subsection (b)(2) must include an absentee ballot and instructions for completing and returning the ballot by mail or in person as required by section 2(b) of this chapter.
- SECTION 3. IC 14-33-5-6 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 6. (a) At each annual meeting and before the election of directors, the chairman shall appoint three (3) freeholders of the district who are present at the annual meeting to act as clerks of and conduct the election.
- (b) Before the casting of **a** an in person vote, each freeholder must sign the list of freeholders opposite the freeholder's name in the presence of the secretary of the district. If the clerks find that a freeholder's name is erroneously omitted from the list, the clerks shall place the name on the list. The omitted freeholder is then entitled to cast a ballot.
- (c) The clerks shall note the fact of receipt of a valid written ballot vote, whether cast in person or absentee, opposite the freeholder's name who cast that vote. At this time the written ballot vote is considered cast.
- (d) At the close of the election poll, the clerks shall count the cast ballots and make a report of the results. The secretary of the district shall record the results in the records of the district. The chairman shall then declare the successful nominees elected, and the elected directors are entitled to and shall assume all the duties of the office for which elected.

SECTION 4. IC 14-33-5-21 IS AMENDED TO READ AS



SB 291—LS 6897/DI 101+







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FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 21. (a) If the board issues revenue bonds for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and liquid waste, the board may do the following:

- (1) Subject to sections 21.5, 21.6, and 21.7 of this chapter, establish just and equitable rates and charges and use the same basis for the rates as provided in IC 36-9-23-25 through IC 36-9-23-29.
- (2) Collect and enforce the rates, beginning with the commencement of construction as provided in IC 36-9-23.
- (3) Establish rules and regulations.
- (4) Require connection to the board's sewer system of any property producing sewage or similar waste and require discontinuance of use of privies, cesspools, septic tanks, and similar structures. The board may enforce this requirement by civil action in circuit or superior court as provided in IC 36-9-23-30.
- (5) Provide for and collect a connection charge to the board's sewer system as provided in IC 36-9-23-25 through IC 36-9-23-29.
- (6) Contract for treatment of the board's sewage and pay a fair and reasonable connection fee or rate for treatment, or a combination of both, as provided in IC 36-9-23-16.
- (7) Secure the bonds by a trust indenture as provided in IC 36-9-23-22.
- (8) Create a sinking fund for the payment of principal and interest and accumulate reasonable reserves as provided in IC 36-9-23-21.
- (9) Issue temporary revenue bonds to be exchanged for definite revenue bonds as provided in IC 36-9-23-17 through IC 36-9-23-20.
- (10) Issue additional revenue bonds as part of the same issue if the issue does not meet the full cost of the project for which the bonds were issued as provided in IC 36-9-23-17 through IC 36-9-23-20.
- (11) Issue additional revenue bonds for improvements, enlargements, and extensions as provided in IC 36-9-23-18.
- (12) Covenant with the holders of the revenue bonds for the following:
 - (A) Protection of the holders concerning the use of money derived from the sale of bonds.
 - (B) The collection of necessary rates and charges and segregation of the rates and charges for payment of principal and interest.

SB 291—LS 6897/DI 101+



C O P (C) Remedy if a default occurs.

The covenants may extend to both repayment from revenues and other money available to the district by other statute as provided in IC 36-9-23.

- (b) In the same manner as provided by IC 36-9-23, the rates or charges made, assessed, or established by the district are a lien on a lot, parcel of land, or building that is connected with or uses the works by or through any part of the sewage system of the district. The liens:
 - (1) attach;
 - (2) are recorded;
 - (3) are subject to the same penalties, interest, and reasonable attorney's fees on recovery; and
 - (4) shall be collected and enforced;

in substantially the same manner as provided in IC 36-9-23-31 through IC 36-9-23-32.".

Page 1, line 1, delete "IC 13-26-4-2.5" and insert "IC 14-33-5-21.5". Page 1, line 3, delete "Sec. 2.5." and insert "**Sec. 21.5.**".

Page 1, line 3, delete "a board election under" and insert "all districts.

- (b) Notwithstanding any other law that applies to the establishment of rates and charges by a district, after the introduction of an ordinance establishing rates and charges but before the ordinance is finally adopted, in addition to any other notice required under this chapter, the notice of the hearing setting forth the proposed schedule of rates and charges must be given by mail to all freeholders in the district if the ordinance establishing the rates and charges is introduced after June 30, 2003. A notice mailed under this subsection must be postmarked not later than ten (10) days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing. The notice required under this subsection may be included in the district's periodic billing if the billing is postmarked not later than ten (10) days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing.
- (c) In the case of an increase or a readjustment in the rates or charges that is greater than five percent (5%) per year, as calculated from the rates and charges in effect from the date of the district's last rate increase before January 1, 2003, the notice required by subsection (b) must contain a statement informing the freeholders in the district of the freeholders' right, under section 21.7 of this chapter and IC 36-9-23-26.1, to file a petition objecting to any ordinance finally adopted by the board that increases the rates and charges.

SECTION 6. IC 14-33-5-21.6 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA



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CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: **Sec. 21.6. (a) This section applies to all districts.**

(b) The presumption established by IC 36-9-23-25(b) does not apply to rates and charges established after June 30, 2003, by a district under section 21 of this chapter.

SECTION 7. IC 14-33-5-21.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: **Sec. 21.7. (a) This section applies to all districts.**

(b) Notwithstanding any other law that applies to the establishment of rates and charges by a district, a written petition objecting to an ordinance finally adopted after June 30, 2003, that increases or readjusts the rates and charges of the district may contain the minimum number or proportion of freeholders in the district described in IC 14-33-2-2 as an alternative to the petition requirements described in IC 36-9-23-26.1(a)(2). In all other respects, the procedure provided in IC 36-9-23-26.1 applies to a written petition filed in accordance with this subsection.

SECTION 8. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] IC 14-33-5-2, IC 14-33-5-4, and IC 14-33-5-6, all as amended by this act, apply to annual meetings of conservancy districts held after June 30, 2003."

Page 1, delete lines 4 through 17.

Delete pages 2 through 3.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 291 as introduced.)

LAWSON C, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0.



SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 291 be amended to read as follows:

Page 1, line 3, after "district," insert "except a district to which section 4.5 of this chapter applies,".

Page 1, line 8, delete "absentee".

Page 1, line 9, reset in roman "vote."

Page 1, line 9, delete "included in the notice mailed under section 4(b) of this".

Page 1, delete line 10.

Page 1, line 11, delete "absentee".

Page 1, line 11, reset in roman "vote".

Page 1, line 11, delete "by the freeholder".

Page 1, line 12, delete "casting the ballot".

Page 1, line 12, reset in roman "mailed or delivered".

Page 1, line 12, delete "returned:".

Page 1, line 13, delete "(1) in person".

Page 1, line 13, reset in roman "district office."

Page 1, line 13, delete "location specified in the".

Page 1, run in lines 12 through 13.

Page 1, delete lines 14 through 17.

Page 2, delete line 1.

Page 2, line 2, delete "(c)".

Page 2, line 2, reset in roman "A".

Page 2, line 2, delete "An absentee".

Run in page 1, line 13 through page 2, line 2.

Page 2, line 10, delete "Notice" and insert "Except for a district to which section 4.5 of this chapter applies, notice".

Page 2, delete line 11.

Page 2, line 12, delete "(1) By" and insert "by".

Page 2, run in lines 10 through 12.

Page 2, line 14, delete "the date fixed in the notice for".

Page 2, delete lines 16 through 22.

Page 2, line 30, delete "in person".

Page 2, delete lines 31 through 34.

Page 2, between lines 34 and 35, begin a new paragraph and insert: "SECTION 3. IC 14-33-5-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 4.5. (a) This section applies to a district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.

(b) At each annual meeting of the district, directors shall be

SB 291—LS 6897/DI 101+



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elected to fill vacancies on the board due to expiration of terms, resignation, or otherwise. The election shall be conducted by written ballots. To be elected, an individual must receive a majority of the votes of the freeholders of the district who are:

- (1) present and voting in person; or
- (2) absent but have mailed or delivered a written absentee ballot included in the notice mailed under subsection (e)(2).
- (c) A written absentee ballot must be signed by the freeholder casting the ballot and returned:
 - (1) in person to the location specified in the notice mailed under subsection (e)(2) on or before the ending time for voting in person on the date of the annual meeting; or
 - (2) by mail to an address specified in the notice mailed under subsection (e)(2).
- (d) An absentee ballot is valid if delivered or received on or before the scheduled date of the annual meeting.
- (e) Notice of the annual meeting of the district shall be given as follows:
 - (1) By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in the district at least fourteen (14) and not more than thirty-one (31) days before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting.
 - (2) By mail to all freeholders on the list prepared under section 5 of this chapter not later than fourteen (14) days before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting. The notice required under this subdivision may be included in a district's periodic billing if the billing is postmarked not later than fourteen (14) days before the date fixed in the notice for the annual meeting.
- (f) The notice required by subsection (e) must contain the following:
 - (1) The names of the nominees.
 - (2) The place where the election will be held.
 - (3) The date and time of the election.
 - (4) The fact that this is the annual meeting of the district.
 - (5) The purposes of the meeting.
 - (6) The time during which in person ballots may be cast.
- (g) A mailed notice under subsection (e)(2) must include an absentee ballot and instructions for completing and returning the ballot by mail or in person as required by subsection (c)."

Page 4, line 32, delete "all".

Page 4, line 33, delete "districts." and insert "a district that, before







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July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.". Page 5, line 16, delete "all".

Page 5, line 17, delete "districts." and insert "a district that, before July 1,2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.". Page 5, line 23, delete "all".

Page 5, line 24, delete "districts." and insert "a district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3.". Page 5, line 34, delete "IC 14-33-5-2," and insert "IC 14-33-5-4.5, as added by this act, applies".

Page 5, delete line 35.

Page 5, line 36, delete "of conservancy districts".

Page 5, line 37, delete "." and insert ", by a conservancy district that, before July 1, 2003, used the notice procedure described in IC 14-33-4-3."

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to SB 291 as printed February 18, 2003.)

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